

THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

October
1944

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MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 10
NUMBER 3

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THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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M.L.A. LOOKS AHEAD

By CECIL J. McHALE, *President*

WE RESUME, after a two-year interval, our hitherto unbroken series of annual meetings. The coming conference will be a full-dress one, beginning on Wednesday and ending on Saturday, October 25 through 28. It will be replete with general sessions, general business meetings, and section and round-table meetings.

We have learned that an organization representing the many professional interests of a large state, even one as well founded and active as is ours, loses momentum and stimulus when it cannot meet as a whole at least once each year. There is an *esprit de corps*, a forward propulsion derived from a large and representative gathering of like-minded people which can hardly be achieved by the same people working towards the same ends at a distance from one another. I need not mention the personal satisfaction which comes from renewing acquaintance with friends and co-workers from other places.

We have tried to make the conference a truly representative one and to provide a program which will furnish food for thought, encouragement to action, and reinforcement of professional aspirations.

May I direct your attention to the recommendations of the Planning Committee, published elsewhere in this issue of *The Michigan Librarian*. As I have been saying at district meetings and elsewhere during the past year, the activities of the Association are becoming so ramified and so important that our annually changing executive boards must be given secretarial and headquarters assistance by a full-time administrative secretary, responsible to the Executive Board and, through it, to the Association as a whole. I conceive of such a secretary as also relieving the editor of *The Michigan Librarian* of considerable non-editorial work, the extent and burdensomeness of which few of our members realize.

To be sure this will require an increase in membership dues, but it will be worth it—worth it not only in encouraging our able members to continue serving the Association in official capacities but in increasing the Association's serviceability and effectiveness to the profession as a whole and to the individual members in particular.

Present income, based on individual dues of \$1.50, is sufficient to cover only bare expenses of operation. Not a little of the clerical and secretarial burden and expense is absorbed by the officers, editor, and key committee chairmen themselves. On the basis of a membership of twelve hundred (an all-time high, not at present attained) annual dues of \$2.00, an increase of fifty cents, will bring in an additional \$600. Dues of \$2.50 will bring in \$1200 more, and of \$3.00, \$1800 more.

My own observation and experience dictate that in spite of our impressive accomplishments to date we have very much indeed left to do which we know about and very much yet to do of which, during these kalaidoscopic years, we are only dimly aware. May we be prepared to seize opportunity by the forelock!

THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY

A Part the Public Librarian Can Play in Adult Education

By ERICH A. WALTER

Assistant Dean, University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

I SHALL ask my reader's pardon for beginning what I have to say with a personal anecdote. When I was a boy ten years old, it was one of my daily assignments to walk to a neighbor's house, a farmer who lived at the edge of town, and get from him our daily pail of milk. For various reasons I liked the old farmer and usually managed to arrive at the time when he began his milking. I liked to hear him talk about things and particularly about fishing. Sometimes I asked him questions. I remember distinctly asking him one night which church he attended. That was a natural question for me to ask since I was at that time being raised in a thoroughly orthodox religious home. He did not answer me immediately, but countered with the question, "What church do you go to?" With no little assurance and probably with a good deal of finality and satisfaction I said, "The Lutheran Church." "Oh," he said, "I go to the People's Church."

As I remember it there was about him just a little of a knowing manner and at the same time some hesitancy. But his answer gave me the shock of the unexpected and started me on a new road of thinking. I questioned my mother repeatedly about "The People's Church," its location, its membership. Did they have a catechism? Did they have a Bible School? Were its members confirmed, etc., etc.? She replied in the negative to all these questions and said, "He was just spoofing." But to this day "The People's Church" means a great deal to me. It came to stand for no catechism, no Bible School, no examinations, no rules, no admission by trial, no exclusiveness. It still somehow seems to be about the perfect church.

I recall this incident because I believe it pertinent to the subject of this article. The

public library, The People's University, has many of the marks of my farmer's church. No one is barred from visiting the public library. The building is open daily and each evening, except Sundays, while in some cities its doors are open every day. Moreover, there is no "spoofing" about it. At the People's University we may expect, and we usually find, people in charge who may be asked endless questions and who somehow seem always to know the answers. If once in a very long time they are nonplused, they always know where to find the answer and are always obliging and courteous in bringing needed material to light.

This is exactly as it should be, for there is no more important public servant than the librarian unless it be the public school teacher. These two servants of the people have much in common. For the sake of perspective, let us look at Thomas Fuller's description of "The Good Schoolmaster" from his *The Holy and Profane State* (1642). I shall quote the first paragraph of Fuller's essay, then the eight maxims, after which I shall quote in full all that Fuller has to say under Maxims 1 and 2:

"There is scarce any profession in the Commonwealth more necessary, which is so slightly performed. The reasons whereof I conceive to be these: first, young scholars make this calling their refuge, yea perchance before they have taken any degree in the University, commence Schoolmasters in the country, as if nothing else were required to set up this profession but onely a rod and a ferula. Secondly, others who are able use it onely as a passage to better preferment, to patch the rents in their present fortune, till they can provide a new one, and betake themselves to some more gainfull calling. Thirdly, they are disheartened from doing their best with the miserable reward which in some places they receive, being Masters to the chil-

dren, and slaves to their parents. Fourthly, being grown rich, they grow negligent, and scorn to touch the school, but by the proxie of an Usher. But see how well our Schoolmaster behaves himself.

Maxime 1—His genius inclines him with delight to this profession.

Maxime 2—He studieth his scholars natures as carefully as they their books;

Maxime 3—He is able, diligent, and methodicall in his teaching;

Maxime 4—He is, and will be known to be, an absolute Monarch in his School.

Maxime 5—He is moderate in inflicting deserv'd correction.

Maxime 6—He makes his school free to him, who sues to him in forma pauperis.

Maxime 7—He spoils not a good school to make thereof a bad Colledge.

Maxime 8—Out of his school he is no whit pedanticall in carriage or discourse; contenting himself to be rich in Latine, though he doth not gingle with it in every company wherein he comes.

Maxime 1—His genius inclines him with delight to this profession. Some men had as lieve be schoolboyes as Schoolmasters, to be tyed to the school as Coopers Dictionary, and Scapula's Lexicon are chained to the desk therein; and though great scholars, and skillfull in other arts, are bunglers in this: But God of his goodnesse hath fitted severall men for severall callings, that the necessities of Church, and State, in all conditions may be provided for. So that he who beholds the fabrick thereof may say, God hewed out this stone, and appointed it to lie in this very place, for it would fit none other so well, and here it doth most excellent. And thus God mouldeth some for a Schoolmaster's life, undertaking it with desire and delight, and discharging it with dexterity and happy successe.

Maxime 2—He studieth his scholars natures as carefully as they their books; and ranks their dispositions into severall forms. And though it may seem difficult for him in a great school to descend to all particulars, yet experienced Schoolmasters may quickly make a Grammar of boyes natures, and reduce them all (saving some few exceptions) to these generall rules.

1. Those that are ingenious and industrious. The conjunction of two such Planets in a youth presage much good unto him. To such a lad a frown may be a whipping, and a whipping a death, yea where their Master whips them once, shame whips them all the week after. Such natures he useth with all gentlenesse.

2. Those that are ingenious and idle. These

think with the hare in the fable, that running with snails (so they count the rest of their school-fellows) they shall come soon enough to the Post, though sleeping a good while before their starting. Oh, a good rod would finely take them napping.

3. Those that are dull and diligent. Wines the stronger they be the more lees they have when they are new. Many boyes are muddy-headed till they be clarified with age, and such afterwards prove to be the best. Bristoll diamonds are both bright, and squared and pointed by Nature, and yet are soft and worthless; whereas orient ones in India are rough and rugged naturally. Hard rugged and dull natures of youth acquit themselves afterwards the jewells of the countrey, and therefore their dulness at first is to be born with, if they be diligent. That Schoolmaster deserves to be beaten himself, who beats Nature in a boy for a fault. . . And I question whether all the whipping in the world can make their parts, which are naturally sluggish, rise one minute before the houre Nature hath appointed.

4. Those that are invincibly dull and negligent also. Correction may reform the latter, not amend the former. All the whetting in the world can never set a rasours edge on that which hath no steel in it. Such boyes he consigneth over to other professions. Shipwrights and boatmakers will choose those crooked pieces of timber, which other carpenters refuse. Those may make marvelous merchants and mechanicks which will not serve for Scholars."

(Thomas Fuller's *The Holy State and the Profane State*, edited by M. G. Walten, 1938.)

It would be superfluous to draw attention to the several points at which Fuller has described the characteristics of our contemporary teachers. May I suggest that he has described some of the outstanding characteristics of our librarians as well.

Here is a definition of a librarian by a contemporary writer, Arnold Bennett. In his book, *The Savour of Life* (1928), Arnold Bennett defines the librarian thus:

"It is desirable that the . . . Librarian should be able to read, write, count up to a hundred and fifty, organize, talk to citizens firmly yet persuasively, catalogue, know the difference between a book and a bull's foot, assess the relative values of authors, chaffer with publishers, and sign his august name with a flourish. Also, in his spare time, he should scan reviews, or even books

themselves, and have a mind capable of making quick decisions which will affect the intellectual life of tens of thousands of individual aspirants to knowledge or aesthetic pleasure. Indeed his influence, if not his direct power, will be enormous; his responsibilities to the Education Authority, or heaven, will be heavy, and therefore he will be a personage."

Let us call this "personage" the president, or the director of the People's University.

I need spend no time in describing the student who attends that University. Librarians can do that much better than I and much more authoritatively. But let us spend a little time in looking at his want lists. I shall use the word "want" as synonymous with "need." More often than not (and I may be subject to correction here) he asks for a current book or a comparatively contemporary publication. Here the good librarian will heed Thomas Fuller's second maxime and "will study his scholars' natures as carefully as they their books." For purposes of illustration, let us consider ten possible "want" cases.

Case 1:

If the student is one who seeks relief from life's constant demands by reading at least half of the three hundred crime novels annually published (this is the pre-war figure) could the librarian not suggest that his "ingenious" nature might find in Wilkie Collins the master detective? Dorothy Sayers, herself a master of crime fiction, whose *Nine Tailors* is a novel to remember and reread, judges Wilkie Collins' *Moonstone* as "probably the finest detective story ever written." To make another suggestion—*Edwin Drood* might introduce, or reintroduce, the "ingenious" student to Dickens. The student might then actually carry on with *Great Expectations* and *Pickwick Papers*.

Case 2:

The war weary—impatient with the world, but teachable and at least a would-be believer in democracy—let him take home Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*—a war that lasted twenty-seven years—but which is remembered because it kept alive the democratic ideal.

Case 3:

The student of peace and peace plans—he wants Mr. Adler's *How to Think about War and Peace*. He should have it, but also try to slip him *The Complaint of Peace* by Erasmus.

Case 4:

The good citizen who is seriously excited by

Charles Beard's *The Republic* should at least be reminded of Plato's.

Case 5:

The self-appointed censor, unless he be what Thomas Fuller describes as "invincibly dull and negligent also," should not go home without a copy of Milton's *Aeropagitica* under his arm.

Case 6:

The citizen willing to make an honest effort to understand young people—in addition to the latest volume on juvenile delinquency, let him have Rousseau's *Emile*.

Case 7:

Recommend to the arm-chair general who has memorized Major Eliot and has been overwhelmed by Clausewitz, to dig still deeper and be awed by Sun Tzu's knowledge of propaganda, in his *The Art of War* (526 B.C.).

Case 8:

Montaigne is an antidote for all extremists. He reduces the egotist and bolsters the fearful.

Case 9:

To the indefatigable traveler who cannot or will not leave his own city, William Doughty's *Arabia Deserta* will furnish a vicarious expedition which may change him permanently.

Case 10:

Never have more anthologies been published than have appeared in the last forty years. Readers like variety between the covers of single volumes. Do many librarians point out to their readers the remarkable variety in the world's greatest anthology, *The Bible*?

One last suggestion concerning the reading of great books—Let there appear in every public library next to the display of the latest books, a shelf or bookcase of the world's great books. Display against the latest, the greatest.

In *The Saturday Review of Literature* for May 13, 1944, there appeared in the "Letters to the Editor" department this short note:

Sir: A librarian proposes that pretty girls be utilized more in libraries than was the alleged case in olden days. Chicago libraries have quite a line of young chicks working but there is quite an added feature necessary to library work. There should be library workers who can talk all day long to their public about books. In a long career as library goer I have come across only one girl who ever volunteered to say a word about a book on her own accord. I would say this privilege should be allowed librarians and it should be considered one of their rights—to discuss books with customers—if customers are willing. Thus we will have book talk in America.

CARL PETERSON

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SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS AND AND RECIPROCITY

By FANNIE SHEPPARD

Assistant Librarian, Reference and Catalog Departments,
Teachers' College Library, Columbia University

MOST librarians know the *Subscription Books Bulletin*, a quarterly publication of the American Library Association. Not all librarians are fully aware of the many ways in which they may use this bulletin, nor of how they, as librarians, may assist the Subscription Books Committee of the Association in carrying out its functions.

What are subscription books, and why does the American Library Association sponsor the *Subscription Books Bulletin*? To define the term *subscription book* is not easy. Mr. F. E. Compton, speaking on the subject *Subscription Books* (the fourth of the R. R. Bowker Memorial Lectures) said: "I have been unable to find a definition of subscription books that cannot be challenged. But perhaps we can agree that subscription books are, in the main, those for which a definite market is created, before or after publication, by soliciting individual orders."

On our library shelves we do not lack excellent examples of this type of publication: *The Dictionary of American English*, *The Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, *The Dictionary of American Biography*, as well as the standard encyclopedias and atlases. Because there have been many inferior subscription sets, the *Subscription Books Bulletin* came into existence to guide librarians and library patrons in selecting the best publications available in certain fields, or at certain prices.

The Committee on Subscription Books of A.L.A. was established in 1926 as a result of the felt need for a central advisory service on encyclopedias, subscription sets, and various allied compends. Until then the only systematic reviewing services for subscription sets were those carried on by the Massachusetts Library Club and the Pacific Northwest Library Association. The original A.L.A. committee was appointed to survey the field and make recommendations. Due to the efforts of this committee, the

Subscription Books Bulletin made its appearance in 1930 under the chairmanship of May Wood Wigginton.

At the time of the *Bulletin's* initial appearance, the purpose of the Subscription Books Committee was: "To accumulate information about books sold on the subscription basis and to prepare reviews and editorial comments on them for the *Subscription Books Bulletin*."

Through ten years of existence the *Bulletin* grew in scope and influence, and the Committee on Subscription Books became aware of a need to review its practices and policies. A subcommittee on policy and reviews, under the chairmanship of Mabel Louise Conat, was appointed in 1941, to make a study of the situation.

After two years of careful examination of the policy of the committee and the scope of its activities, the subcommittee recommended to the Council of the American Library Association a revised statement of the functions of the Subscription Books Committee. The council, early in 1943, approved the following revised statement of functions: "To accumulate information about books sold on the subscription basis and about comparable publications; to prepare reviews and editorial comments about such books for the *Subscription Books Bulletin*; to receive reports of questionable sales practices affecting such books and to transmit substantiated facts to such agencies as Better Business Bureaus and the Federal Trade Commission; to publish the findings of these agencies in the *Subscription Books Bulletin* when authorized for release; and to act throughout only as an evaluating agency, not as an advisory group."

In addition to reviews, the *Bulletin* frequently carries editorials related to subscription book purchasing. In 1941, a subcommittee to investigate commercial services which list and make available free and inexpensive materials was appointed. Occasional issues of the *Bulletin* are devoted to

reviews of these services, the latest being the January 1944 issue which evaluated services offering vocational materials.

The task of the Subscription Books Committee is an arduous one because of the time needed to prepare reviews and the scope of material to be reviewed. The committee has been enlarged from an initial membership of six to a current membership of fourteen. A word regarding the working procedure of the committee may clarify understanding of the means by which its functions are fulfilled.

The committee chairman selects and assigns titles for review. If a set is large, such as an encyclopedia, the task of appraisal is divided among two or more committee members. The reviewer prepares his statement and forwards it to the Publications Department of the A.L.A., where it is mimeographed and mailed to all committee members who then comment on the review. If a member has been unable to examine the title under consideration, he takes the viewpoint of a prospective purchaser. The review is edited in the light of these comments and returned to the author for final approval. Preparation for publication is the responsibility of the Publishing Department.

If a psychologist were to test the attitude reactions of present and past members of the A.L.A. Subscription Books Committee to the adjectives *tedious* and *worthwhile*, the results might be surprisingly alike. Hardly a member of the committee would rate the work of reviewing as other than *worthwhile* in its final result; no member would have failed to experience the *tedium* which accompanies the task.

Rewards for hard work as a member of the committee do come. Among these are the many commendations of the committee's efforts received from librarians, the country over. A reward which I personally recall, was the relief and appreciation of an elementary school principal upon learning of the *Subscription Books Bulletin*. As a new principal, he had come to a school burdened with poor encyclopedias and so-called works of reference. Recognizing the mistakes in purchasing made by his predecessor, he was eager for guidance that would assist him in

avoiding similar pitfalls.

Perhaps the greatest reward for effort which can come to any member of the committee would be a wider use of the *Bulletin* by librarians, by school people, and by library patrons. This may be accomplished in various ways. First among these would be careful and consistent examination and use of the *Bulletin* in every library. Route the *Bulletin* through the hands of all staff members who come in contact with the public whether in circulation, reference, children's or school work. In addition, it should also come to the attention of all staff members concerned with the selection and purchase of books and pamphlets, and those responsible for publicizing the resources and services of the library.

Libraries frequently get telephone requests for information regarding a particular subscription set. To facilitate answering such questions quickly, keep a card index of all titles which have been reviewed in *Subscription Books Bulletin*, or which have received a note in lieu of a review. Such a file is maintained by the Reference Department of the Detroit Public Library and has proved very helpful.

Inquiries regarding a set of books frequently reach the library after purchase rather than before. If such an inquiry is received regarding a set of little merit, the librarian, fortunately, can do more than offer sympathy to the purchaser. In the event that there has been misrepresentation, the purchaser may be encouraged to refer his case to the local Better Business Bureau or to the Federal Trade Commission. Knowing that an agent selling an inferior set is in the community, the librarian may help to safeguard others by having a warning published in the newspaper or broadcast over the local radio station. Such information must be couched in general terms of warning against purchasing books of poor quality, rather than against a particular set. It can be truly effective through encouraging residents of the community to consult the library files of the *Subscription Books Bulletin* before agreeing to purchase any publication offered by an agent.

(Continued on Page 27)

Martyr Bones and Mortarboards

Varied comments have been received by the editor in reaction to *The Status of Children's Librarians* by Harriet G. Long, which appeared in the June 1944 issue of *The Michigan Librarian*. These criticisms of Miss Long's thesis are given here because of their predominantly constructive nature. Embodied in the remarks made by Ralph A. Ulveling, librarian of the Detroit Public Library, are the essential points made by several other library administrators. Mr. Ulveling writes—

The dictionary defines a *devil's advocate* as a "critic who picks flaws to evoke controversy, or to bring out the whole truth." An assignment of this type, despite the unflattering designation applied to it, has a long, honorable background historically, and is a highly valuable medium for achieving sound thinking. Miss Harriet G. Long should be commended for her espousal of this role in her recent article. I believe her effort will be productive of much that is professionally sound if the article is not allowed to slip quietly into the limbo of forgotten papers. Prompted by a desire to carry forward the work she started, I shall offer what clarification of the subject my Detroit experience permits.

In general, her presentation reflects a spirit of unrest which is broadly characteristic of the times in which we live. The urge to achieve a finer, better world for all—commendable in its objective—must, however, be directed intelligently—never emotionally—if we are to obtain enduring goals.

Proper salary recognition for able professional service was a point stressed by Miss Long. That point was well taken. Salaries of \$1,400 to \$1,600 for any children's librarian—or any librarian—with adequate training for the work, is deplorable. But the injustice here cited is not one needing correction for children's librarians only. The problem must be attacked on a broad front and if done in that manner will produce far more wholesome results for all—the smaller group quite as well as the entire group of librarians. Experience in Detroit, where all

workers in the children's field may progress to a salary of \$2,760.00, and the heads of children's rooms in the larger library agencies may go to \$3,036 and \$3,243, is offered as evidence of the point I am stressing.

The relative salary recognition given heads of children's rooms I am disregarding as, in the Detroit Public Library—probably because of the high esteem in which children's librarians are held—they are, as Miss Long recommends, at a point of equality with the first assistants of branch libraries.

In her pleading for a special group, however, Miss Long—by inference if not by direct statement—tends to discredit relatively the contribution and possibly the capacities of general adult assistants. This calls for correction. The comparison made in her text would appear to be that of the ideal modern children's worker with an antedated type of adult department associate. Surely Michigan is not unique in its practice of having general adult assistants represent their institutions in lecturing before clubs and music groups, in giving radio talks, in taking their places on community committees, in carrying responsibility for newspaper releases. This statement I have broadened to include the out state, for, even with limited knowledge of practices elsewhere, I could, nevertheless, cite several libraries where this practice has been followed for years.

Two further points I shall touch on briefly, not in an effort to reflect unfavorably on children's librarians but to expose the fallacy in some of the protagonist's logic.

Do children's librarians have a legitimate claim to being specialists in a way that their co-workers do not? On the basis of the amount of special training brought to the job the answer is "no." While in service they acquire unique knowledge and skills, as they should. Just so do workers in reference departments and in special subject departments. Though in a less obvious way, so too do the staff members who work in adult circulation services, who must draw out inarticulate patrons, who must quickly sense the difference in the needs of the cas-

ual reader and the specialist, who must appraise accurately the level of reading suitable for the person before one.

The second point concerns the relative responsibilities of children's librarians and branch librarians. Whereas the children's librarian is responsible to a segment of the community, the branch librarian is responsible to the entire community. In addition to this, the branch librarian must co-ordinate the services of children's and adult rooms, harmonize the staffs, and finally stand responsible for the proper care of a building and equipment which may represent a large investment, sometimes nearly \$400,000. No, the demands placed on children's librarians and branch librarians are not comparable.

In closing this rebuttal, let me say that I have dared to be plain spoken because I am confident that my associates in the Children's Department of the Detroit Public Library will understand that no lack of interest in, or appreciation of their splendid contribution, prompts this wholly sincere attempt to see justice done for all. With good will for those who have dedicated their professional careers to the service of young people, I close with an assurance that when next the Newbery award dinner is held, I will, as in previous years, be among the crowd eagerly seeking a place in the banquet hall.

—*****—

To add to Mr. Ulveling's convincing contribution brings a spirit of anti-climax. However, there is value in other comments, both written and oral, which have been received.

One of the leaders of our profession offers sound advice and in five comments points to the weakening of over-all service through isolation of specialized activity.

1. Adult librarians should know more about children's librarianship.

2. Children's librarians should know more about adult librarianship.

3. They should try hard to think of their work not as an end in itself.

4. They should guard against developing an exclusive attitude or a feeling that their deserts are different from or higher than other librarians.

5. They should counterbalance their reading diet by reading a few more adult books.

In considering the transfer of a librarian from the specialization of children's work to other service, another administrator in the State says, "Is the library administration not borrowing from Peter to pay Paul and in the transaction losing Peter and later having no Pauls coming on?"

"Here are two problems: 1) the irresistible force of good children's librarians trying to find justice by passive resistance, that is, leaving the job they like to get more money and recognition in a job less satisfying in the long run; and 2) the immovable object of an administrator who sees out-of-proportion importance in institution headships and adult service.

"Something is to be gained by stating the situation as clearly and dramatically as possible and causing it to be talked about in every possible phase on all kinds of occasions. But, after all, may it not be solved by a rebirth of the pioneer spirit of our fine founders? Does anyone think that these revered personalities did not turn down some attractive financial offers because they were originating a department of library service not before developed, not yet recognized, and for which they felt the call for devotion?"

"There is a great deal to be said for the person who persists in the exercise of special gifts even though material gains are sacrificed. Let the Mary Browns and Jane Smiths gather up their courage and stick to the job they are prepared for and can do better than their classmates and make that job shine out. There is all the more room at the top in children's librarianship precisely because it is just now underpaid and perhaps underestimated. Let those who must, leave for the better salaries and let the strong ones hang on—darkest hours often come just before success and a raise in pay."

In response to this plea: Isn't the dawn here? Isn't this the hour for the rising of the sun which will bring a fair living standard for all library workers?

Another comment points out that "it is unfortunate to have one branch of the pro-

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BEHIND THE STACKS

By GEORGE GILFILLAN

When this column first appeared last March, the hope was expressed that we would hear who has been doing what and where. There has been a trickle of information and we'd like to hear that trickle roar along. The column is to be a meeting ground for our folks from all the State, plus items of general interest from the rest of the country. So send your news items to us c/o Reference Department, The Detroit News, Detroit 31, Michigan.

Desks were dusted, readers awakened and the "Welcome Home" mat laid at Escanaba's public library for Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas who returned Sept. 18th as librarian.

During the past four years Mrs. Thomas has been librarian at Appleton, Wisconsin. From 1922 to 1927 she was Escanaba's librarian, resigning to serve the Baldwin Public Library at Birmingham.

A past president of both M.L.A. and the Wisconsin Library Association, Mrs. Thomas' return to home grounds is a happy occasion.

George L. Piday, book binder par excellence and M.L.A. auditing committee member, is last reported in Washington. He was called into national service last spring. What he is doing, what it will lead to, we don't know; George wouldn't say, except that it is very confidential work. From our acquaintance with him and somewhat fragmentary knowledge of his background, we guess that George Piday and Hungarian liberation have much in common.

Grand Rapids librarians are watching with interest the WAC career of Gladys Dunn, assigned to Arlington Hall, Va., as a member of the Signal Corps.

Florence G. Babcock, who became the first medical record librarian at the University Hospital, Ann Arbor, in 1925, retired September first.

Credited with the organization of a unit system for centralization of medical records which served as a pattern for hospital libraries throughout the country, Miss Babcock also was one of the organizers of American Association of Medical Record Librarians.

She will be succeeded by Miss J. Kathryn Batchelder who came to Ann Arbor in 1925 as Miss Babcock's assistant.

Florence Severs' discussion of phonograph records in the small library, in our October 1943 issue, attracted wide attention and was reprinted in *Texas Libraries* for March 1944.

An important part of prisoner rehabilitation work is being carried on by Texas Prison System bookmobile which visits each unit of the state prison system once a week.

Nearly world-wide circulation is achieved by Shaker Heights (Ohio) library. One of their borrowers is a ferry pilot who stops in every two weeks to return a book with the comment: "This book has been in Russia" etc.

Dearborn Public Library has been making the long summer days happy for youngsters on city playgrounds with story hours. At Lindbergh School playground Mary A. Phillips and Janice Joy are directors and Josephine Bumpus is reader.

When Betty whinnied, horse and buggy days had returned to staid Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, and Mary Alexander, young people's librarian, had ridden into a six weeks summer job.

Troubled by branch library communities where juvenile delinquency was high and book circulation low, Miss Alexander decided that a horse and wagon would serve the double purpose of bringing books to the community and attracting and holding the interest of young borrowers. She rented Betty and a hawker's old red wagon—dressed with red shelves and oilcloth awnings—for two dollars a day. Preceded by a boy on a bike banging a four note xylophone, Miss Alexander gaily made the rounds of her parish.

The material success of her enterprise was measured by 480 registrants of whom 456 had no record of previous library membership.

A greater measure of the value of her curb service is stated by Miss Alexander: "Too often a wide gulf lies between our librarians and the people they wish to serve. In these poorer districts where tough fibered men do hard physical labor and the women are too often the ill-nourished slaves of large families, our college-bred career girls housed in institutional buildings and representing 'culture' have very little appeal for their possible clientele. There is just not enough in common between them. It is much simpler for a sunburned librarian driving a horse to establish a bond of interest quickly with the woman and her family seated on their doorstep."

(Continued on Page 24)

Recommendations from Committees

The **Planning Committee** recommends that two amendments be presented by the Constitution Committee at the annual meeting in October and that one such amendment increase the dues to \$2.00 and the other to \$3.00, thereby giving the membership an opportunity to determine the amount of the increase.

The March issue of *The Michigan Librarian* carried a comprehensive outline of the progress made in library work in Michigan in the article "A Survey of Library Legislation in Michigan 1937-1944," prepared by Dorothy T. Hagerman.

In this seven year period, the Michigan Library Association grew from a small association of 350 members to approximately 1200 members, and the work of its officers, committees and members resulted in a fine record of achievement. We point not only to the legislative program which brought state aid and created the State Board for Libraries but to the creation of the district organization, the district meetings, summer institutes, the personnel surveys made by Mr. John S. Cleavinger and the Salary Staff and Tenure Committee, the publication of *The Michigan Librarian*, the work of the study committees on teacher-librarian training, adult education, etc. as well as the work of the sections and round tables with special reference to the County Libraries Round Table and the Junior Members Round Table.

We make this brief and partial recapitulation of new activities in order to make the membership aware of the problem facing the executive board and especially the president. A hasty examination of the Who's Who in the June 1944 issue of *The Michigan Librarian* will impress anyone with the great amount of correspondence and secretarial work required for the M.L.A. work program. The fact that either a full-time or half-time secretarial position should be made available to the executive board has been noted before, but now the need for definite arrangements for such help becomes increas-

ingly apparent. It goes without saying that the present treasury will not allow the required secretarial help, and that the only way in which funds can be made available is through increased dues.

It is not so much the work of the past but that of the future that concerns us. It is not the projects which are being carried on now but those which we must undertake in order to approach the goals we have set for ourselves which make this a pressing problem. The State Aid Law does not become completely effective until 1948. The Association owes it to the State Board for Libraries to aid in the great task required to create the organizational units for which the law calls, and to assist in making effective the Post War Regional Plan proposed by the State Board for Libraries. The full development of a trustee section, further plans for in-service training, as well as other activities will surely be expanded.

RUTH RUTZEN, *chairman*
The Planning Committee

* * *

The **Publications Committee**, after due consideration, recommends that the following constitutional amendments be brought before the membership this year.

By-Laws Article VIII, Section 2.

As it now Stands:

"*The Michigan Librarian* shall be the official organ of the Association and shall be sent to all members of the Association in good standing. There shall be an Editor appointed by the President upon the advice of the Publications Committee and with the approval of the Executive Board. The Treasurer of the Association shall be the Business Manager of the official organ."

Proposed amendment.

Substitute for last sentence: "A Business Manager shall be appointed by the President upon the advice of the Editor and with the approval of the Executive Board."

By-Laws Article IX, Section 3.

Proposed amendment.

After: "the term of office of the Treasurer shall coincide with the fiscal year," insert the following: "; and that the term of office for the Editor and Business Manager of the official organ shall be two calendar years, beginning with the uneven years;".

Respectfully submitted by

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MRS. IONE DORITY

MARGARET L. GIBBS

JEANNE GRIFFIN

GRACE WINTON

MADELEINE DUNN (*Ex-officio*)

ISABELLA SWAN (*Ex-officio*)

RUTH MILLER, *chairman*

* * *

RECOMMENDATIONS ON TENURE

According to the directive of the membership at the 1942 conference, the Executive Board has been acting as a tenure board until regulations and procedures for tenure problems could be adopted and a tenure board appointed.

The following statement of principles involved in the tenure of librarians has been recommended to the Executive Board by the subcommittee on tenure. It is printed here for the careful consideration of the membership of The Michigan Library Association. At the conference in October, the problem will be brought up for discussion.

SUGGESTED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON TENURE

After the expiration of a probationary period, librarians should have permanent or continuous tenure and their services should be terminated only for adequate cause, except in the case of retirement because of age.

In the interpretation of this principle, the following shall be considered acceptable professional practices:

1. The precise terms and conditions of every appointment should be stated in writing and be in the possession of both institution and librarian before the appointment is consummated.

2. Beginning with appointment to the position of full-time librarian, the probationary period should not exceed one year. If

the librarian is not to be continued in service after the expiration of the probationary period, notice should be given at least two months prior to expiration of that period.

3. When the facts are in dispute in cases of termination for cause of a continuous appointment, or the dismissal of a librarian previous to the expiration of a term appointment, the accused librarian should be informed in writing of the charges against him and should have the opportunity to be heard by all bodies that pass judgement on his case. He should be allowed to have with him an adviser of his own choosing and there should be a full stenographic record of the hearing available to the parties concerned. If the charge is that of incompetence, testimony of other librarians should be allowed. Librarians on continuous appointment who are dismissed for cause should receive at least three months notice from date of notification of dismissal.

4. It is recognized that not all cases of dismissal of librarians are necessarily evidence of injustice; the principles stated herein are intended to protect library administrators as well as librarians from unprofessional practices.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE IN CASES OF DISPUTE

If a member of The Michigan Library Association believes himself to be the victim of practices which are not in accord with the principles stated above, he may appeal to the Board on Professional Status. In accordance with Principle No. 4 above, a library administrator may also appeal in case of a dispute between the administration and an employee. If, after a preliminary examination of the facts, the Board feels that the case warrants further investigation, it shall appoint a committee to carry on that investigation, and it shall do everything possible to expedite matters so that the investigation proceeds without unnecessary delay. The committee shall report its findings to the Board on Professional Status and if the report indicates that the administration of the library involved has acted contrary to the principles stated in the Statement of Principles on Tenure, the Board on Professional Status shall inform that administration of that fact and it shall recommend ac-

tion to remedy the situation. If the administration involved refuses to comply with the recommendation of the Board on Professional Status, a summary of the case shall be published in *The Michigan Librarian* and the name of the library concerned shall be placed on a list of libraries which have failed to act in accordance with acceptable professional practice. A list of these libraries shall be published in *The Michigan Librarian*.

RECOMMENDED STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY M.L.A. in order to carry out provisions of the Statement of Principles on Tenure.

1. A copy of the Statement of Principles on Tenure should be sent to every library administrator or library administrative body in the State of Michigan. An accompanying letter should be enclosed to explain the mutual advantages to be gained by library administrators as well as library employees from a clearly stated tenure policy and the co-operation of these administrators should be asked in carrying out the tenure principles.

2. Since there is no reason to believe that cases which will necessitate a complete investigation by a committee in the field will occur often and since, therefore, any one person will have to serve on such a committee only very rarely if at all, library administrators should be asked that time spent serving on such a committee should be considered in the same category as time spent at professional meetings and a person spending some time in the field should be permitted to do so without loss of salary.

3. In order to make investigations by a committee possible, the Executive Board of The Michigan Library Association should make available funds to pay expenses of the committee while it is in the field.

Submitted by the Subcommittee on Tenure.

SAMUEL SAAS, *chairman*

MARY J. CROWTHER

DOROTHY OLMSTEAD

BLANCHE WILLIAMS

August 2, 1944

UNIVERSITY COURSES

SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Miss Irene Hayner, librarian of the University High School, is offering a course in the Selection and Use of Library Materials in Secondary Schools (Education D154) during the fall term of the School of Education, University of Michigan, beginning November 2, 1944. This course has been designed to acquaint undergraduates planning to teach in the secondary schools with books and similar materials which relate to the interests of high school students and vitalize the subjects in the curriculum.

TEACHER-LIBRARIAN PROGRAM

A program of study for teacher-librarians leading to the degree of Master of Arts has been arranged at the University of Michigan through the cooperation of the School of Education and the Department of Library Science. In the sequence, courses in education, sociology, and psychology are to be given during the regular terms. Ten hours of work in the administration of the small high school library and the selection of books and related materials for students and faculty will be offered during the Summer Session. The complete sequence is listed in the brochure *Advanced Study in Education* issued under the direction of the Committee on Graduate Study, May, 1944, which is available through the University of Michigan Extension Service.

WAYNE COUNTY PENSION PLAN

The recently adopted Wayne County pension retirement plan marks another addition to the list of benefits received by employees of the Wayne County Library. Although it is to be hoped that some of the more serious flaws in the plan will be removed shortly, the provisions as a whole are liberal, and the adoption of such a plan is in itself a sign of progress.

Arrangements made thus far provide for a maximum retirement income of \$1800 a year at the age of 75 after 15 years of service with the county, at 70 after 20 years, at 65 after 25 years, or at any age after 30 years of service.

Obituaries.

Eleanor Horton, music cataloguer at the Detroit Public Library from 1921 to 1938, died at Elkhart, Ind. on July 25, 1944.

Helen Ward, Detroit Public Library staff member from 1896 to 1941, died at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, Detroit, on Sept. 12, 1944.

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

October 25-28, 1944

Conference Headquarters

WEDNESDAY, October 25

2:00 P.M. Registration

2:30 P.M. Executive Board Meeting.....PRESIDENT McHALE'S SUITE

8:30 P.M. First General Session.....BLACK AND SILVER ROOM, CIVIC AUDITORIUM
Honorable Laurence W. Smith, *president*, Board of Library Commissioners,
Grand Rapids, *presiding*.

Welcome—Mayor George W. Welsh, Grand Rapids

Speaker—Dr. Max Lerner

Reception—Pantlind Hotel

THURSDAY, October 26

8:30 A.M. Breakfasts CAFETERIA
Library Vocational Workshop Students

Hospital Libraries Round Table.....MEETING ROOM 128
Ruth Dancer, *chairman*

10:00 A.M. First Business Meeting.....GRILL ROOM
President Cecil J. McHale, *presiding*

12:30 P.M. Luncheons
Trustees Section.....AMBER SUITE
Mrs. Mary H. Lambie, *chairman*

Staff Associations—meeting.....MICHIGAN ROOM
Lillian Anderson, *chairman*

Children's Section—meeting.....SCHUBERT ROOM
Viola K. Fitch, *chairman*

2:00 P.M. Second General Session.....BALL ROOM
F. Ridlen Harrell, *chairman*, Public Relations Committee, *presiding*

News from the Michigan State Board for Libraries
Helen Warner, *chairman of the Board*

Planning for Michigan Libraries
Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, State Librarian

Discussion—Led by members of the Public Relations Committee

6:30 P.M. Annual Banquet.....BALL ROOM
President Cecil J. McHale, *presiding*

Bricks, Brains, and Books
Rabbi Jerome Folkman, Grand Rapids

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Pantlind Hotel

Grand Rapids, Michigan

FRIDAY, October 27

- 8:30 A.M. **Breakfasts** CAFETERIA
County Libraries Round Table—*business meeting*..... ROOM 128
Viola K. Fitch, *chairman*
- 10:00 A.M. **Second Business Meeting**..... GRILL ROOM
President Cecil J. McHale, *presiding*
- 12:30 P.M. **Luncheons**
Michigan Regional Group of Cataloguers..... AMBER SUITE
Katherine E. Schultz, *chairman*
Lending Section—*meeting*..... SCHUBERT ROOM
Jeanetta Sagers, *chairman*
Reference Section—*meeting*..... CONTINENTAL ROOM
Maureen Fisher, *chairman*
- 2:30 P.M. **Scheduled Meetings**
College Libraries Round Table..... ROOM 127
Helen Mather, *chairman*
Hospital Libraries Round Table..... ROOM 128
Ruth Dancer, *chairman*
Children's Section..... MICHIGAN ROOM
Viola K. Fitch, *chairman*
School Libraries Section—*business meeting*..... AMBER SUITE
Sarita Davis, *chairman*
- 6:30 P.M. **Dinner—In honor of the Officers of 1942-43**..... SCHUBERT ROOM
President: Eudocia Stratton
First Vice-President: Cecil J. McHale
Second Vice-President: Phyllis S. Rankin
Treasurer: Madeleine B. Dunn
Secretary: Mrs. Lodisca Payne Alway
Hazel M. DeMeyer
Margaret L. Chapman
- 8:30 P.M. **Third General Session**..... GRILL ROOM
Second Vice-President, Lydia Koebbe, *presiding*
The Rare Book In Your Library
Colton Storm, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan

SATURDAY, October 28

- 8:30 A.M. **Breakfasts** CAFETERIA
Junior Members Round Table
Margaret Murray, *acting chairman*
- 10:00 A.M. **Fourth General Session**..... BALL ROOM
President-elect, Ernest I. Miller, *presiding*
A University Librarian Looks Ahead
Warner G. Rice, Director University of Michigan Libraries
A Public Librarian Looks Ahead
Alice M. Farquhar, Adult Education Director, Chicago Public Library
- 12:30 P.M. **Luncheons**
Executive Boards, 1943-44 and 1944-45
School Libraries Section—*meeting*..... SCHUBERT ROOM
Sarita Davis, *chairman*
-

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

MAX LERNER

As author, educator, lecturer, and college professor, Dr. Lerner has been associated with various educational and social movements. He has had professorial appointments at Sarah Lawrence College, Wellesley, Harvard, and at Williams College. Since 1943, he has been a member of the staff of PM. He has served in an editorial capacity for the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* and *The Nation*.

His opinions are always sharply provocative and he has gained a large following through his ideas on political and economic planning. He was director of the Consumers' Division, National Emergency Council. *It Is Later Than You Think*, published in 1938, is probably his most quoted book.

WARNER G. RICE

After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1920, Warner G. Rice taught in their Department of English for two years before going to Harvard where he helped to introduce the Tutorial System. In addition to his tutorial duties, he lectured both at Harvard and Radcliffe and twice went to England and the Continent for short periods of study as the holder of a Dexter Scholarship.

Since 1929 he has been at the University of Michigan, first as associate professor, then as professor of English. Since the summer of 1941 he has been Director of the General Library at the University.

Mr. Rice reports that from the humanists he carries over a firm belief in the value of the liberal arts and is directing his efforts toward making them significant in the life of the University.

COLTON STORM

Having graduated from Oberlin College into the depression in 1930, trained "to do nothing in particular and there being practically nothing to do that year," Colton Storm claims that he floundered around until he was "hauled into a book store in Chicago." Since then he has been worming his way around in the world of rare books. He was affiliated with the Chicago Book & Art Auctions, Inc. and looks back with temerity upon the period when he was their cataloguer, having since discovered that "rare book cataloguing is a very tricky business."

At the American-Anderson Galleries in New York, he learned about all of the wonderful book rarities which interest him "more than any other variety of inanimate tangible."

In 1936 he and another employee of the Galleries opened the firm of Retz & Storm, Inc., a successful little venture from which he was lured away by the combined influence of Randolph G. Adams of the Clements Library, the war, and a dislike of New York, an "unpleasant place to live, but profitable."

He is now the curator of maps at the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, one of the editors of *The Quarto*, author, and lecturer. Together with Howard H. Peckman, curator of manuscripts, he is preparing a series of lectures on the history of printing as related to political and intellectual history, which will be given in Detroit and Ann Arbor this season through the University Extension Service.

ALICE M. FARQUHAR

After graduation from the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Library School, Alice Farquhar returned to her home in Chicago and for the first ten years of her professional career served as branch librarian in several branches of the Chicago Public Library. In 1922 she organized the Readers' Advisory Service at the Central Library and she has specialized in adult education since that time.

At the M.L.A. conference in 1941, she acted as moderator for the adult education clinic and will be remembered by all those who were at Traverse City for her very able work there.

Since 1941 she has been serving as chairman of the A.L.A. Adult Education Board, her term expiring this year.

Helen Warner and Loleta D. Fyan

It is entirely fitting that these two well-known Michiganders who are so assiduously serving the libraries of the State should be companion speakers at the second general session of this year's conference. Helen Warner, as chairman of the Michigan State Board for Libraries, and Loleta Fyan, as State Librarian, are in continuous contact with librarians and library boards of the entire State. Theirs is a vantage point for the gathering of news and the formulating of plans which will make for a good program and a lively discussion at this meeting.

SPECIAL PROGRAM PLANS

As this issue of *The Michigan Librarian* goes to press, we have received announcements of the details of some of the special meetings scheduled for the October conference, which we pass on.

At the School Libraries Section meeting for luncheon on Saturday, October 28, the theme will be *The Radio and the School Library*. The chairman of this Section, Sarita Davis, Elementary School Library, University of Michigan, announces that the speaker, Kathleen N. Lardie, assistant supervisor in charge of radio, Detroit Public Schools, will talk on the topic: Radio's Contribution to the Arts. A group discussion will follow.

On Thursday, October 26, the Children's Section will meet for luncheon with Charlotte Squires, children's librarian of the Lincoln Park Branch of the Wayne County Library. Those who became acquainted with Miss Squires while she was teaching at the Library Workshops this summer, as well as her many other friends, will be glad to know that she will tell a story at this meeting.

There will be a reception sponsored by the Grand Rapids Librarians' Club and the Public Library Staff Association following the address of Dr. Max Lerner on Wednesday night.

Thursday afternoon plans include tours of places of interest in Grand Rapids, among them a trip to the Furniture Museum and the Baker Furniture Co. where the finest Grand Rapids craftsmanship and historical reproductions will be on display. If government permission can be obtained there will be a tour of the American Seating Co.

At the luncheon and meeting of the Lending Section on Friday, Mrs. Marjorie Gallagher, post librarian, Fort Custer, will speak on "G.I. Joe and his Library." Following a talk on "Planning for Post-war Demands" there will be a general discussion of possible post-war changes in library service.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

Alice Dalgliesh, chairman of the Association of Children's Book Editors, has appointed the following persons to serve on the Book Week Committee: Chairman, Helen Dean Fish of Lippincott; Elizabeth Riley of Crowell; and Marie Jessup of Macmillan. Nedda Walker, illustrator of children's books, will do the poster bearing the slogan "United Through Books." The dates designated as Book Week are November 12 to 18.

COUNTY LIBRARIES INSTITUTE

October 28 and 29

Plans are being made for a County Libraries Institute to be held in October following the Michigan Library Association conference in Grand Rapids. The first session will be held Saturday afternoon, October 28. There will also be a dinner meeting Saturday evening and a meeting on Sunday morning.

Listed for discussion are the problems of certification, statistical records, library signs, and the presentation of a budget. Will members who have other subjects which they wish discussed please let the chairman, Viola K. Fitch, Wayne County Library, know as soon as possible.

Miss Margaret Murray, librarian, Kent County Library, Grand Rapids, will be chairman of the local arrangements. Please inform her of the number from your library who will be attending the dinner Saturday night.

DISTRICT VII MEETING

The Upper Peninsula Library Association met the twenty-seventh of May in the Carnegie Public Library, Iron Mountain, with Miss Lucile Monroe as their hostess. Hospitality was shown by the Red Cross Canteen of Iron Mountain as they served coffee and doughnuts to the membership upon registration.

At the morning session, Mrs. Dorothy Hagerman of Grand Rapids reported on the State Board for Libraries and post-war planning. An open discussion of policies for communities with inadequate library service was led by Lydia Koebbe, librarian at Stambaugh.

At the luncheon served at the St. Mary and St. Joseph's Church, forty guests enjoyed an interesting talk by Mrs. Anthony Formolo, formerly Rosemary Obermeyer, who is the author of *Golden Apples of the Sun*. Mrs. Formolo told the background story of writing this book and of her experiences in having the honors of the Avery Hopwood Award and the Catholic Book Club in recognition of her novel.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are indebted to the Board of Library Commissioners of Grand Rapids for making it possible to have Dr. Max Lerner as speaker at the first general session of our conference this year. On behalf of the membership of The Michigan Library Association, the Executive Board hereby expresses gratitude to the Commission for giving us this educational privilege.

—***—

The Executive Board met July 28 and 29 at Waldenwoods during the Michigan Library Association Institute.

The Adult Education Committee, Mildred Limond, Royal Oak, chairman, has been designated to serve as the Association liaison with the Michigan Council of Churches in connection with the planning of a second series of conferences throughout the State on community goodwill.

On behalf of the Association the Board has accepted a bequest of the late Clement V. Ritter of \$1000 "to be distributed on the advice of the Michigan Library Association . . . on application of local libraries that qualify." The president has appointed a committee to work out the details for the disbursement of the bequest. A report from this committee follows.

The Clement V. Ritter Bequest

The will of the late Clement V. Ritter, well-known bookseller of Chicago and friend of librarians, reveals a bequest of \$1000 for libraries of Michigan. Under the terms of the will, the money is to be distributed to libraries having an annual income of \$2500 or less and is to be spent for reference books and other books of permanent value. The administration of the fund is entrusted to the Michigan Library Association with a committee appointed to work out the details.

In the opinion of the committee and the Executive Board of the Association, it would be useless to spread the money too far. Therefore a division of the fund for the benefit of twenty libraries is contemplated.

It is also agreed that the most impartial method of distribution would be to notify all eligible libraries of this opportunity and base the awards on the replies.

Accordingly, letters have been mailed to 200 libraries in the State with September 15, 1944 set as the latest date for replies. It is the hope of the committee that the checks will be ready for presentation at the Michigan Library Association Conference at Grand Rapids in October.

Mr. Ritter took a genuine interest in serving libraries and it is pleasant to know that he remembered Michigan together with five other states in his will.

ADELINE COOKE, *Birmingham,*
chairman

LODISCA PAYNE ALWAY, *Michigan*
State Library

MARION PACKARD, *Flushing*

Editorial Staff

Cecilia Moskal, Technology Department, Detroit Public Library, has accepted the post of advertising manager of *The Michigan Librarian*. The editor, being relieved of these duties, has turned some attention toward developing an editorial staff.

George Gilfillan, Reference Department, The Detroit News, whose brief tenure as editor was terminated by doctor's orders, has generously consented to continue the column, **BEHIND THE STACKS**.

Mrs. Zona Williams, library consultant with the State Library, whose new duties necessitate traveling in the Upper Peninsula, will be the reporter for that area.

Jean Wesner, librarian of the G. E. Strohm School, Trenton, and Betty Paulus, Reference Department, Detroit Public Library, will serve on the staff. As yet, they have not been given specific assignments.

There is a great deal of work connected with the publication of *The Michigan Librarian* and more staff members are necessary. The editor will be glad to hear from anyone who has ability, inclination, or interest in making this kind of contribution to the profession.

Teacher-Librarians Institute

The first Teacher-librarians Institute in Michigan was held at Waldenwoods on September 22-24. Though the program was planned for this particular group, the meetings were open to everyone interested in the reading interests of young people.

Publicity was given to this educational meeting through announcements sent to all school superintendents just after Labor Day. The events of the gathering were scheduled for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning, thus making it possible for school people to attend without an interruption in classes.

A fuller report of this institute is being prepared for the December issue of *The Michigan Librarian*.

Workshop Awards

The Scholarship Committee, Frances A. Hannum, Ann Arbor, chairman, announces that there is great need to replenish the scholarship fund which has been depleted because there was no conference of The Michigan Library Association in 1943. The grateful and enthusiastic acknowledgments received from the recipients indicate the appreciation and value of these awards.

Applications were considered by the committee in the order received and awards were granted to those who first applied with the exception that in a few cases the scholarships were granted to those who, having attended a workshop last year, were enabled to qualify for certification by completing the work given this season.

The committee reports the following record of awards.

WALDENWOODS, May 29-June 2

Miss Georgia Bassett, Union Township Library, Union City

Miss Rhena M. Baughman, Bloomingdale Library

Mrs. Esther Grove, Reading Community Library

Miss Mabel Gilchrist, Gobles Public Library

Mrs. Lulu Klaasse, Stanton Public Library

SCENIC LODGE, MUSKEGON, June 12-16

Mrs. Grace Brown, Dutton Branch Library, Kent County

Mrs. Lena Carmien, Benzonia Public Library

Mrs. Margaret Miner, Schoolcraft Township Library, Vicksburg

Mrs. Carrie Houle, N. Greenville Branch, Greenville

Mrs. Florence Root, Roxand Township Library, Mulliken

HIGGINS LAKE, June 19-23

Mrs. Ruth Chapman, Helena Township Library, Alden

Miss Marta Gerhardt, Reed City Public Library
Mrs. Helen M. Robbins, Brooklyn Public Library

Mrs. Edna Smith, Sutton's Bay Public Library
Miss Rose Mary Lynch, Isabella Township Library, Rosebush

CAMP SHAW, July 31-August 4

Miss Ethel Erickson, Bessemer Township Library, Ramsay

Miss Elizabeth Jacobson, Escanaba Public Library

Mrs. W. H. Leiser, Ontonagon Township Library, Ontonagon

Miss Bernice Heilicka, Spies Public Library, Menominee

Miss Ruth Whittbecker, Mason County Librarian, Ludington, attended the Library Extension Institute at Chicago on a special scholarship offered through the generosity of an anonymous donor.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Pantlind

Single—with bath	\$2.75 to \$5.50
Double—with bath (double bed) ..	\$4.40 to \$7.15
(twin beds) ..	\$5.50 to \$10.00
Suite of two rooms—bath between.	
(one double bed)	\$ 5.00
(one twin beds)	\$ 5.50
Three single beds—with bath	\$ 9.00
Parlor suite for two persons	\$13.50

Morton Hotel

Three blocks from headquarters

Single—with bath	\$2.75 to \$7.70
Double—with bath (double bed) ..	\$3.85 to \$9.90
(twin beds) ..	\$4.95 to \$9.90
Parlor suite, double or single	\$12.00

Hotel Rowe

Six blocks from headquarters

Single—private toilet and running water. ..	\$2.20
—with bath	\$2.75 to \$4.40
Double—with bath (double bed) ..	\$4.25 to \$6.60
(twin beds) ..	\$5.50 to \$7.70

Hotel Mertens

Nine blocks from headquarters

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WALDENWOODS INSTITUTE - July 27-30, 1944

Summarized by MILDRED E. LIMOND, Royal Oak Public Library

Although marked by no pomp and but little ceremony, the Waldenwoods Institute of the Michigan Library Association celebrated its fifth anniversary this summer. The true importance of that anniversary lay in the recognition, by the hundred-or-so librarians who attended, of the value of this summer program both from the recreational and professional standpoint. *Repeat performances* are the rule rather than the exception for Waldenwoods; that fact alone attests the need for the Institute and insures its continuation.

"Demobilization and Readjustment" provided the theme for this year's Institute, with emphasis by speakers from outside the profession on the resulting problems of these twin processes, and discussion of the participating role for libraries and librarians by those in the field. With 100,000 Michigan men already discharged from the armed forces and more coming home at the rate of 1,000 a month, no community, however small, can fail to be affected by the needs of the ex-serviceman. Helping the ex-civilian discard that "ex" is the combined job of national, state, and local agencies—a job which will tax their facilities to the utmost.

Dr. Woodburn O. Ross, of Wayne University, gave the opening address, indicating the current trend, of both nations and individuals, away from rationalism towards intuitive thinking. Such thought processes are a measure of escape from reality; while they are exemplified again and again in the current literary trend towards mysticism, their danger lies in a denial of the basic tenets for which we fight.

The Friday morning discussion, covering "Problems of Demobilization and Adjustment," was in many respects one of the most interesting of the entire Institute, since both speakers were men whose contacts with veterans have been continuous and first hand. Dr. Orlo Crissey gave a summary of the plan now in operation at the Flint A. C. Spark Plug Division for re-employing the returned serviceman, and detailed the procedure by which that company helps the veteran make his occupational and personal adjustments. Carl C. Wheaton, chief of the Detroit War Manpower Commission Training Division, sketched the part his agency has played in developing skilled labor for industry and indicated that the hope for future reconversion lay in continued co-operation between government and industry, particularly in the re-employment of veterans.

Following a short afternoon session covering the purely professional problem of *Borderline Books—Adult, Youth, Juvenile*, the assembly divided itself into three groups and debated the important question: *How can the Library give its best service to returning veterans and to families whose life has been upset by the war?* Concrete suggestions from the audience as to current practices gave added emphasis to the need for libraries to act as referral agencies rather than to attempt to invade the realm of psychology in such matters.

Dr. Howard Y. McCluskey of the University of Michigan was in charge of both Saturday sessions. Under his able leadership, both panels concentrated on two aspects of the same problem: Agencies to help solve adult and youth problems of demobilization and readjustment. The adult angle was competently covered by representatives of the Michigan Veterans Bureau, the U. S. Army, and a layman who outlined the efforts of one small community (Fenton) to help both ingoing and outcoming servicemen. It was clearly evidenced that both the federal and state governments are keeping a paternal eye on discharged veterans and are ready to help them in every way possible. Local agencies, though willing, are less successful in gauging the needs of veterans but they, too, are doing their utmost.

Post-war plans for youth are not quite so satisfactory because the matter has been left almost entirely to state and local authorities. Judge Stephen Clink of the Muskegon County Probate Court, who has been most active in revising Michigan's Juvenile Code, indicated the purpose of the State program and stressed the magnitude of the present problems in connection with delinquency and the war. One of the gravest situations, brought out by Miss Evelyn Ellingson of the Michigan Department of Health, is the large number of teen-age delinquents in industrial areas, especially girls. Dr. McCluskey stressed the rude awakening ahead for those youngsters who, because of the labor shortage, are now earning wages out of all proportion to their capacities. Their disillusionment when they are forced to enter the competitive labor market will aggravate the problems of demobilization. One cheery note, sounded by the chairman in his summarization, lies in the intense planning that Michigan has done for both veterans and youth; our programs, being both inclusive and advanced, are models for other states.

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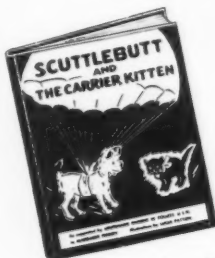
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PROFESSIONAL BOOKS

ADMINISTRATION

McDiarmid, E. W. and McDiarmid, John
*Administration of the American Public Li-
brary.* Chicago, A.L.A., 1943. \$3.00

The authors describe library organization and management as it exists and make recommendations for the future development of libraries that will be of interest to librarians and to library trustees. They appraise the policies and procedures of 315 municipal libraries in cities of 30,000 or more population.

* * *

Stanford, Edward B.

Library Extension Under the WPA. Chicago,
University of Chicago Press, 1944. \$3.00

This evaluation of the contributions to libraries through various Federal work relief projects analysts both the accomplishments and the errors. Mr. Stanford gives a short historical survey of the pre-WPA relief programs including FERA, CWP, and NYA. He conducted his research in the projects as they were administered in South Carolina and Minnesota.

The South Carolina project is an example of multi-county or regional development in a "predominantly rural state having few libraries and no active state agency." The Minnesota state-wide project serves as an example of carefully controlled and intensive library extension by demonstration.

Because of the implications which this analysis has for the post-war period during which we can expect another era of Federal relief, this study is deserving of the careful consideration of all persons interested in planning for libraries. Through this study of the past activities, we can plan to profit during the coming period.

* * *

Wight, E. A.

Public Library Finance and Accounting. Chi-
cago, A.L.A., 1943. \$2.75

A practical approach to the problems of preparing and presenting the library budget. This essential tool is designed to acquaint librarians with the general procedures of public finance and to enable them to deal more understandingly with appropriating bodies. The appended *Glossary of Accounting Terminology* is especially useful.

REFERENCE PROBLEMS

Hutchins, Margaret

Introduction to Reference Work. Chicago, A.L.A., 1944. \$3.50

Margaret Hutchins, associate professor, School of Library Service, Columbia University, gives an entirely fresh approach to the subject. She discusses reference service from the standpoint of the librarian attempting to understand and to fill the needs of the library patrons.

The result is a well-rounded picture of what reference work is. Principles and policies form the background for specific suggestions and recommendations of interest to administrators, library school students, and the reference staff.

* * *

CATALOGING AID

Akers, Susan G.

Simple Library Cataloging, 3d. ed. Chicago, A.L.A., 1944. \$2.25

This third edition by Susan G. Akers discusses new services such as the simple printed cards available from the H. W. Wilson Company. It takes into consideration the new editions of *A.L.A. Catalog Rules*, *Sear's List of Subject Headings*, and the *Decimal Classification*. All bibliographies have been brought up to date.

Much of the book has been rewritten, adding new material so as to give those with little training the specific help they need to put a book collection in simple working order.

* * *

DEAN OF AMERICAN LIBRARIES

Rider, Fremont

Melvil Dewey (American Library Pioneers, No. 6). Chicago, A.L.A., 1944. \$2.75

Melvil Dewey's explosive personality, restless energy, and dynamic force are faithfully pictured by his nephew. Fremont Rider's biography is an intimate picture of the man who spent half his lifetime on interests apart from library work but who, none the less, created the *Decimal Classification*, started the first library school, fought to admit women to the profession, and was instrumental in starting both the *Library Journal* and the American Library Association.

Librarians who knew Melvil Dewey will appreciate this word portrait. Those who become acquainted with him here will gain a more positive attitude toward the profession in their admiration of the man and his accomplishments.

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(Continued from Page 10)

Continuing A.L.A.'s part in the good neighbor policy, Carl H. Milan, executive secretary, and Harry M. Lydenberg, director of international activities, spent June and July visiting Latin-American countries.

The object of their trip, which had the approval of the State Department, was to increase the effectiveness of relations between United States libraries and those of Latin-American countries.

* * *

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(Continued from Page 5)

"Book talk in America!" That might well be the slogan of the librarian in his attack upon the problem of adult education, in his approach to the students of the People's University. But after the students have read, they want to discuss what they have read with other students; they want to test their own ideas against those of their fellow students and of their fellow citizens. It is not enough to say that discussion will take care of itself. Just remember your own student days. The classes in which there was discussion were those which encouraged it and directed it. What was true of your college or university experience is much more true of the adult discussion groups or round tables. To give the members of such groups what they want, a leader is essential.

The librarian is the logical person in the community to help train adult discussion group leaders. Quite rightly the librarian, more often than most school teachers, knows the books that adult readers want and need. The librarian can arrange a series of meetings to train group leaders. If a room in the library building is available, so much the better, for readers who frequent the building feel at home there. In training group leaders it is well to discuss a different subject at each meeting and to appoint three or four members to take turns at running the meeting. After each prospect has occupied the chair at least two times, he will be announced on the bulletin board of the library as being in charge of a discussion group that meets at definite times. The librarian will visit the groups at intervals until they are well established. Occasionally, but not regularly, outside speakers may be invited. The University of Michigan Extension Division would be very helpful in providing such speakers. Periodically the various discussion groups might combine and invite an author or an authority on a subject sufficiently broad to engage the interest of all group members. In the main, however, the groups will continue to provide their own instruction through books from the library. They will proceed under the direction of a chairman trained by the librarian.

If we are to come to an understanding of our own way of life, the way we call democratic, we must do our own thinking so that we may in turn make right decisions. If we are to combat in our society those citizens who would eagerly ape and imitate the fascistic ways of our enemies, we need to make the People's University more vital to our daily life and thinking. Not so long ago I met a local business man who is inherently

(Continued on Page 26)

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(Continued from Page 24)

probably a quite decent sort of person. We discussed the question of trying and punishing the war-makers as soon as the War is over. "When it comes to Hitler, let me make this suggestion," said the business man. "Bring Hitler over here for six months after the war. Let him treat the Jews over here as he has those in Germany. After he cleans up on the Jews, give him another six months to take care of the niggers. That would just about solve our two toughest problems." This man is not a college graduate but he is a product of our public schools.

His case might suggest the following topics for reading and discussion by adult groups:

The Fascist in Our Town. How Can We Change His Point of View?

Elements of Fascism in Employer and Employee Classes as Observed in Our City.

How Do We Treat Our Own Minority Problems?

Although some of the topics for study will naturally deal with local problems, these groups should never confine themselves too narrowly. They will not stop with their own city or town, their own state or nation, their own continent. They will consider such topics as:

Responsibilities of the United States in the Post-War World

The Meaning of the Four Freedoms

How New Will the New World Be?

Will There Be a Free Italy and a Free France?

Labor's Responsibility After the War

India's Freedom

How to Defeat Defeatism

A Federation of the Central European Peoples

Woman's New Equality with Man

Where is China Going?

Has Germany a Future?

Demobilization and Post-War Employment

Punishment of the Axis War Criminals

Progress of Progressive Education

You may be thinking, can it be possible that

these adult education groups will ever again have time to read a novel together? Why should we say *ever*? They should save a meeting now and then just for that purpose. Why not begin now with Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit* or with Zofia Kossak's *Blessed Are the Meek* or Rosemary Obermeyer's *Golden Apples of the Sun*?

Suffice it to say in closing that the remarkable "personage" referred to earlier in my quotation from Arnold Bennett could well yield to the temptation, should it arise, "to sign his name with a flourish."

The above article in modified form was presented to The Michigan Library Association on May 26, 1944, at the District No. 2 meeting held in Ann Arbor.

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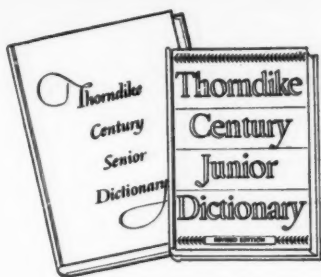
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(Continued from Page 7)

The Gary (Indiana) Public Library has publicized the *Bulletin* through newspaper articles. The Toronto (Ontario, Canada) Public Library and the Muskegon County Library, Michigan, have given it publicity through local radio broadcasts. Since librarians often need guidance in book purchasing, how much more must our patrons need this help! Unless we go to authorities for guidance when buying consumer goods, we are apt to spend money unwisely. Librarians, for the most part, are consumer conscious; but since we must admit occasional errors in some field of purchase, we should realize how much more in need of guidance is the person who is not yet consumer conscious in regard to books. One Michigan librarian who speaks frequently before groups of parents and school people, told me that she makes every talk a means of publicizing the *Bulletin*. Advice of this kind will convince the patron that the library is the place to which he may go for future guidance in book purchasing and other book needs.

Librarians may assist the Subscription Books Committee by sending information regarding titles being marketed in their respective localities to the chairman of the committee: Miss Katherine E. Anderson, Library Association of Portland, Portland, Oregon. It is not unusual for librarians to write letters of inquiry when a title is being considered for purchase, or when some patron has asked for advice concerning a set not yet reviewed in the *Bulletin*.

Such letters are welcomed by the committee chairman. Equally welcome are letters regarding titles being marketed locally, either by agents or through the not infrequent newspaper or drugstore method of distribution, even though these titles have been previously reviewed. Indications of excessive sales activity over the country may suggest to the chairman the need for a follow-up review. Occasionally librarians inquire about a title currently or recently reviewed. Answering such requests involves time. Loss of time for the chairman, for A.L.A. Headquarters, and the inquiring library may be avoided by checking the *Bulletin* carefully before sending requests.

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(Continued from Page 9)

fession feel that they are more thwarted and belittled than any other branch." The editor suggests: Hasn't the day when martyr bones and mortarboards make a librarian passed? There was a time in library history when the mortarboard was rarely required. Have we not now sufficient proof of the value of librarianship as a profession? Can we not now justifiably claim adequate remuneration in all of the fields of library work?

When a university library worker poses the question, "How can we at the university expect to hold trained and experienced librarians on our staff when public libraries are offering such salaries as those in Detroit?" the first answer is a rhetorical question. Why should anybody expect anyone to do any full time job at a salary that is not a living wage?

In final analysis this is a social crusade. Library workers in specialized fields, library workers in general, are all concerned. The crusade has been on for some time. It has been fought by all workers—librarians, government employees, clerical workers, scientists in the laboratories, doctors, lawyers. There have been some victories on specific fronts. The salaries now being paid in certain areas are battles won. There are more battles ahead. Let us take part in them together.

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